



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES ACT ON ICE LEADS; EXECUTE 120 SEARCH WARRANTS IN MASSIVE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROBE**

*Austrian investigation is part of massive worldwide probe*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Acting on information provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Austrian authorities have in recent days executed search warrants at 120 locations associated with 96 child pornography suspects throughout Austria. Austrian authorities also seized numerous computers and related computer media as part of an ongoing investigation.

The Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), in conjunction with local police agencies across the country, were acting on leads provided by ICE's Attaché in Vienna, Austria, as part of a massive investigation under ICE's Operation Predator. Operation Predator draws on ICE's unique investigative and enforcement authorities to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, human traffickers, international sex tourists, and individuals who trade in child pornography. ICE has arrested more than 5,800 individuals in the U.S. since the program began on July 9, 2003. In addition, foreign law enforcement authorities acting on information provided by ICE have arrested more than 1,000 individuals.

The enforcement action by the BKA grew out of an ongoing ICE investigation of an Internet billing company in Minsk, Belarus. In January 2004, the company was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operating child porn websites on its own. Three officers of the company were arrested in Europe and have been extradited to the United States. Two of those officers have pleaded guilty in Newark, N.J., as have four officers of two affiliated companies in Florida and California.

Having dismantled the leadership of the enterprise, ICE agents in domestic ICE offices and 52 Attaché offices worldwide turned their focus to those who purchased child porn subscriptions from these sites in the U.S. and abroad. More than 1,200 individuals have been arrested worldwide in the investigation. ICE has arrested 235 in the U.S. and foreign law enforcement, acting on ICE leads, have arrested more than 1,000 individuals in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or [Operation.Predator@dhs.gov](mailto:Operation.Predator@dhs.gov). ICE's non-governmental partners include World Vision at [http://www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvusufso.nsf/stable/globalissues\\_stp](http://www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvusufso.nsf/stable/globalissues_stp) and the National

Center for Missing and Exploited Children at <http://www.missingkids.org/>. Additional information about Operation Predator is posted at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov).

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*